

Footy: Australian
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J.Lo on 'Idol'?
Stay tuned **48**

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune
publication

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REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

gym germs

Buff up your microbe management—
how to protect yourself and still
get a workout **pages 6-7**

best bets

By Rebecca
Palmore
rkpalmore
@tribune.com



For beer drinkers

Federal Plaza Square,
219 S. Dearborn St.

FREE Toast the season of suds at the 25th annual Berghoff Oktoberfest, brimming with brews and food for sale from the classic German restaurant. Cover bands play nightly at 5 p.m. On Wednesday, hear Maggie Speaks. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. through Friday. 312-427-3170.

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Check out the new Lakeview eatery at its sake dinner, featuring a duo of guest brewers. The night starts with a reception (6:30 p.m.) and continues with a communal dinner (7 p.m.) of Japanese fare and free-flowing rice wine. \$50.

For jokers

Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St. 773-784-6969

Add some variety to your weeknight entertainment lineup at Gay-la 3.0, the third annual benefit that started as a response to the 2008 passage of California's Prop 8 amendment. On the roster: comedians Adam Burke, Kelsie Huff, Cameron Esposito and more. 7:30 p.m. \$10.

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Know how to play Two Truths and a Lie? Two of these statements are true; one is a lie. Can you spot the fake? Text "Lie" followed by the number of your answer to **87708**. We'll text you back to tell you whether you were right.

Name: Suzi Voss Age: 42 'Hood: Mokena

1. I've seen Aerosmith in concert 33 times since 1987.
2. I've floated in a hot air balloon.
3. I once sang onstage at The Viper Room in L.A.

WANNA PLAY?

Submit two truths and a lie, as well as a photo of yourself, to redeyetalk@gmail.com.

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70⁵⁷

TODAY'S FORECAST

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ROBOTRIP DEBATE

As more teens use cough medicines to get high, FDA considering tighter controls on their purchase

Last year, more than 8,000 people, mostly teens, were treated at emergency rooms for abusing over-the-counter cough suppressants, according to the Food and Drug Administration. In an effort to control these substances, the FDA on Tuesday considered whether to change medicines such as Nyquil, Robitussin and Tylenol Cold caplets to prescription drugs. Here's a look at the facts. **CNN**

ROBOTRIPPING DEFINED

Getting high by **consuming more than the recommended amount of cough suppressant** has a few names, including robotripping. People who abuse these suppressants often mix them with prescription drugs or marijuana, according to experts. The combination can cause a spike in heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature. If a child consumes enough of it, it can be deadly.



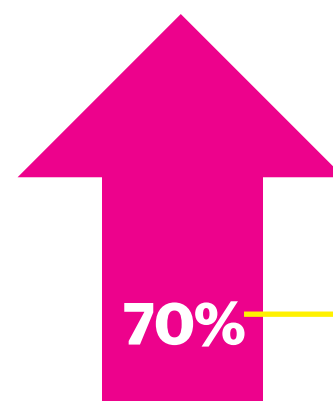
WHAT IS IT?

The ingredient in medicines such as Robitussin that creates a sense of euphoria is **dextromethorphan**, also known as "dex" and DXM. It's found in many products at drugstores.

1.3 million

Number of teens who have reported abusing over-the-counter cough suppressants during the past year, according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America.

40 million Number of people per year who are estimated to use cough suppressants safely to help fight colds.



The percentage increase in emergency room visits **between 2004 and 2008** because of teens using large amounts of cough syrup to get high, according to the DEA.

NEWS OF THE DAY

Cough and cold medicines should remain available without prescription, a Food and Drug Administration advisory committee recommended Tuesday. The Drug Enforcement Administration in 2007 asked the FDA to look at how the government could curb abuse of cough and cold medicines, because a growing number of teenagers were using them to get high. In rare cases, death did occur. The FDA advisory panel decided the medicines did not pose enough of a threat to the general public health.

COMMON PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO ABUSE BY TEENS



NYQUIL



ROBITUSSIN



TYLENOL COLD CAPLETS

"We used to lock up our liquor. Instead, I should have been locking up my medicine cabinet."

—**Misty Fetko**, a registered nurse from Santa Barbara, Calif., whose son died from an overdose of cough syrup

"This is not the biggest drug problem facing America's families these days. But, obviously, the problem needs to be addressed."

— **Steve Pasierb**, president of the Partnership for a Drug Free America



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**page
four**

**JENNIFER
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3 easy steps to great service

Please hold; your readership is very important to us. Please remain on the page; the next available paragraph will be with you shortly.

When was the last time you got off the phone with a customer service representative and thought, "That was an enjoyable and helpful experience"?

As an employee in the hospitality industry, I'll admit I am a bit of a customer service snob. I tend to hold people to the same standards I'm held to, despite glaring differences between where I work and where I generally shop. (The latter tends to be a wee bit more budget-conscious.) But there is some behavior I encountered as a customer that shouldn't fly even at a dollar store. So in a desperate plea to businesses everywhere, here are three commandments you can follow to ensure my next column is not a public complaint letter about your company:

1. Thou shalt not get snippy.

This should go without saying, but I'm repeatedly astounded by how rude some people are, especially considering I'm supposed to be their "valued" customer. I get that you used to be a person with a soul (so did I), but coppin' a 'tude when I make you do your job is unacceptable. Even if I'm rip-roarin' with obscenities about your mother, bite your tongue right now and let loose in a venting session with your co-worker in the break room later.

2. If thou can't help me, find someone who can.

It's not the SAT; you can ask someone else for the answers. Recently I ran into some useless reps when my apartment's power was mistakenly turned off. The power company gave me an in-depth explanation of "process." While it's great you know the inner non-workings of the company, I just want electricity. How, I don't care. Just take care of it.

3. Thy "customer service" means nothing if you don't solve the problem.

Last month I was struggling to hook up a new cable box. The lovely tweeting team for the unnamed company—let's call it Romrast—was quick to respond, but after 10 days and half the company now following me, I ended up fixing it myself. The bottom line: You could be the nicest, most charming person I've ever encountered, but this isn't a date. I have an issue with your product. I need it fixed. So fix it.

I'm not asking for rose petals thrown at my feet or expect my gas company to do back-bends to please me (what am I going to do, threaten to switch to a wood-burning stove?). But what I do expect is to not have to feel like I'm going into battle every time I have an issue that needs addressing. So until this message is heard throughout the land, I will continue to hold the line with my proverbial sword at my side.

Because my call is important to you.

JEN HEALY IS A REDEYE SOCIAL MEDIA INTERN.

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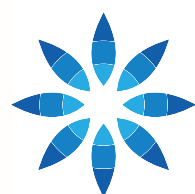
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Germ proof your workout

Knowing how to avoid the creepy crawlies can be the difference between fitness and sickness

By Georgia Garvey

REDEYE

OK, hypochondriacs: Put the newspaper down. Step away slowly, and go about your business as if nothing were amiss.

Everyone else, let's talk. You already know the gym can be a germ-fest. It's full of people—some cleaner than others—sweating all over things, touching their hands to their faces, wiping their foreheads, showering and walking around in various states of undress.

In fact, the National Athletic Trainers' Association released a report last month detailing the dangers that gym settings pose to athletes, particularly from skin infections. The same report noted that studies have shown

the percentage of healthy adults who are carriers for a nasty bacterium called MRSA shot up from 0.8 percent in 2001 to 7.3 percent in 2004.

Illinois Department of Public Health statistics show that about 30 percent of Chicago's residents report exercising at least three times a week. And the International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association reports that about 15 percent of Chicagoans have a gym membership, which figures to be about 439,000 people. As fall settles in and temps drop, some will move their workouts from outside into those gyms, where icky stuff can linger.

Gym germ hot spots include machine handles, swimming pools, showers, saunas—any-

thing wet or moist—and locker rooms.

Dr. Russell Robertson, chairman of family and community medicine at Northwestern University, knows all too well that perspiring humans are like germ superhighways.

"The perspiration, then, will sort of disseminate whatever [germ] it is that you have picked up," he said. While exercising in the gym at his own workplace, Robertson meticulously wipes down the machines on which he works out, both before and after his session, even if he thinks the previous person already cleaned it. "I wouldn't make any assumptions."

The alternative—that you might not exercise at all, just for fear of contracting a rare or relatively harmless illness—can be counter-

productive.

"We need more people to be in [the gym]," Robertson says. "If you choose to not work out because you're afraid of acquiring some infection, you're going to die a lot sooner."

So don't step off the elliptical on our account. But can you name some of the infectors lurking in the locker room or on the treadmill? With the help of Robertson and recommendations from the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, RedEye delved into some of the most high-profile gym offenders.

SOURCES: DR. RUSSELL ROBERTSON, CDC STATISTICS AND FACT SHEETS, TRACI DANIELSON MITCHELL, SEAN CROWE, MAYO CLINIC WEBSITE

THE CULPRITS

MRSA

What is it? Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. It's a bacterium that's immune to some of the antibiotics commonly used to treat infections.

How can you get it? Don't freak out, but it might actually already be on your body. Creepy, but some people carry the bacteria but don't show signs of infection. There are two settings where MRSA usually is transmitted. The more serious one is likely to take place in a hospital-type setting, and the rarer, less serious skin infection can take place in a variety of settings, including gyms. Let's say you have it on your skin, then cut yourself and spread the bacteria into the cut with your hand. Bingo.

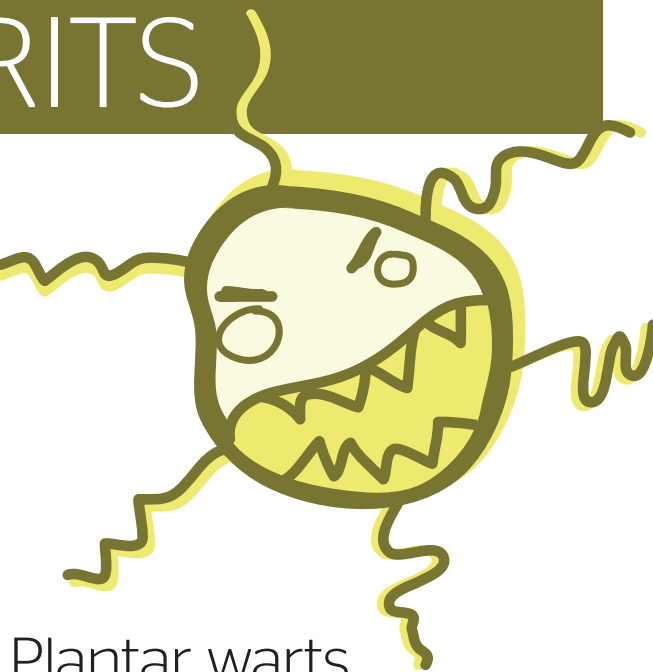
Symptoms/treatment? The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention says MRSA skin infections frequently become a pustule or a boil, one that might at first look like a spider bite. It's usually a red, painful bump in a spot on your body where there was already a cut or a place where hair normally grows. An MRSA infection could get serious, particularly if you have other factors that lower your natural immunity, but doctors have a variety of treatments.

Athlete's foot

What is it? *Tinea pedis*, a fungal infection that's pretty closely related to jock itch (*tinea cruris*) and ringworm of the body and scalp (*tinea corporis* and *tinea capitis*, respectively). Usually, athlete's foot hits you between the toes, where it's dark and warm, just the way the fungus likes it.

How can you get it? You walk on the fungus or infected sloughed-off skin (eeeeeeeeew) in a locker room, shower or near swimming pools.

Symptoms/treatment? Usually it'll crack the skin between your toes and create redness and itchiness. But don't scratch, Robertson says—and that goes for any of the related fungi. Scratching just spreads the fungus and makes it worse. Robertson recommends over-the-counter remedies made to treat athlete's foot. If the drugstore stuff fails you, it's time to see a pro.



Plantar warts

What is it? *Verruca plantaris*, a wart caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV) on your feet or toes.

How can you get it? These warts can be hard to eradicate; you'll pick it up in a similar way to athlete's foot. Plantar warts are even easier to contract if you have a cut on your foot through which the virus sneaks in.

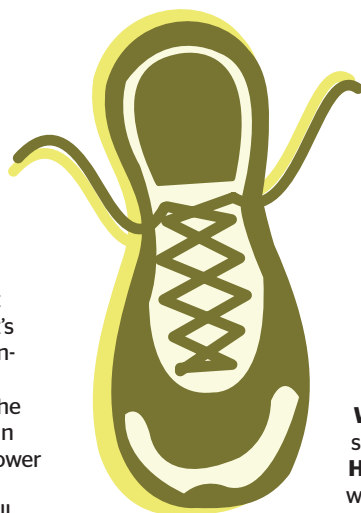
Symptoms/treatment? You'll probably notice a callus that has a black dot or depression in the center. "It kind of feels like you're walking around with a stone in your shoe," Robertson says. As for treatment, over-the-counter plantar wart removers can be helpful. If that doesn't work, doctors have more sophisticated methods, such as freezing the warts off.

Flu

What is it? Influenza, an RNA virus that varies in severity.

How can you get it? It's airborne. Or it can be, anyway. Someone at your gym might decide that the flu is no reason to stop training for the Chicago Marathon and make his way in to slog through his daily 10-mile run. Foolishly assuming that everyone who's sick actually stays home, you work out that day too. You accidentally breathe his sneeze, and then you're laid up for a week.

Symptoms/treatment? You've never had the flu before? It's the feverish, sweaty, coughing, body aches thing. Unless it gets severe, you can treat yourself with orange juice, cough syrup, rest and lots of television. Flu vaccines also are commonly available.



CLEAN ZONES

Each workout facility has its own set of rules and its own ways of preventing the spread of germs and diseases, but here are some more common measures.

Cleaning

Gyms realize they're like a Hawaiian resort for germs, so they clean up after you plenty. Traci Danielson Mitchell, marketing director for Chicago Athletic Clubs, says their gyms have crews constantly disinfecting, bleaching and wiping. They pay particular attention, she says, to pools of water. "Any area that would have a lot of moisture is constantly cleaned," she says, adding that they know water's a "breeding ground" for gross stuff. "We're very cognizant of that."

Towels

Sean Crowe, manager of West Loop Gym, estimates the staff cleans about 200 towels a day, more if the gym members go through them faster. Danielson Mitchell said she's not sure how many towels their members use at the four gyms (soon to be five) in the company, but "members can't swing a dead cat without hitting a receptacle for dirty towels."

Hand sanitizer

The gyms RedEye talked to provided hand sanitizer at the front desk, as soon as members walk in the door, as well as in key spots throughout the gym. There aren't hygiene rules, but Crowe said they find it's not necessary. "We're not coaching or training 5-year-olds," he said. "People naturally kind of do it."

Anti-bacterial wipes

Most people already know they should wipe down surfaces they touch on gym equipment. Even the best of us, though, occasionally forget. Gyms will try to wipe down those spots, though they can't hit 100 percent. The gyms RedEye found offer anti-bacterial wipes for gym members to clean their machines. Don't use a towel to do the job, they say. "It doesn't hurt to wipe down your own equipment," says Danielson Mitchell. "You never know what the person that's used the machine before you [had]."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

There are plenty of ways to lower your chances of getting sick or infected at your local gym, but here are some tips RedEye amassed in our research.

- » Wear shower shoes or flip-flops in the shower, locker room and near the pool. Sorry, no splashing through puddles, either.
- » Wipe equipment before and after you use it. It's like the "be kind, rewind" of the gym. Don't use a towel, but take advantage of provided cleaning products or anti-bacterial wipes.
- » Use a towel or clothing as a barrier between your skin and surfaces in the sauna.
- » Shower and change your clothes as soon as you're done working out. Use hot water to wash your clothes every now and then. It's an environmentally unfriendly tradeoff.
- » Cover cuts and scrapes with bandages until they're completely healed.
- » Don't share anything: ointment, towels, etc. It's like the opposite of kindergarten.
- » Wash your hands (that old chestnut).
- » Don't work out when you're sick. It's the golden rule.



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LIVING WELL IN THE CITY

Headless body found

Bomb squad disables explosive device after discovery in Evanston

Chicago Tribune

In the dead of night, an explosion ripped through Evanston's Fitzsimmons Park, shaking houses and waking residents blocks away. Responding to calls of a possible blown transformer, police searched but found nothing.

The mystery didn't begin to unravel until more than an hour later Tuesday, when resident Dale Wyatt made a grisly discovery.

He was walking his dog when it started pulling its leash. Near a playground, he found a headless body, later identified by police as that of Colin Dalebroux, 21.

"I was kind of freaked out," Wyatt said. "This was the last thing I expected. ..."

So began a macabre series of events that led police to discover a pipe bomb near the corpse. Nearby Nichols Middle School was forced to close, but some students still showed up for classes. Parents, children and school buses were waved off and sent away.

Residents near the park were stunned by the day's developments.

Sarah Stanczyk, 34, was asleep when the blast rocked her home about 3:50 a.m.

"It woke us up immediately," she said. "We thought it was a transformer exploding. Either that, or lightning. It sounded like a boom, and the house actually shook."

She saw police search the area with flashlights, then leave. It wasn't until a couple of hours later that "all chaos started breaking loose," she said.

Wyatt, 31, who lives a half-block from the park, was taking his dog, Buddha, out for a walk. The German shepherd-mix was agitated and began pulling toward something as if chasing a rabbit.

Wyatt found the body of a shirtless man wearing pants with his legs folded underneath him and his right arm stretched up.

There was nothing from the neck up, not even blood, and no obvious marks on the body, he said. A shopping bag and a plastic jug were nearby.

At first he thought it was a mannequin and some kind of "sick joke." But after he met a woman also walking her dog who pointed a flashlight at the body, they realized it was real. Wyatt went to his home and called po-



A bomb technician works near the scene at Fitzsimmons Park in Evanston near where a headless body was found Tuesday. JOSÉ M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

lice, who said they got his call at 5:48 a.m. He met them at the park and led them to the body.

Police taped off the area and found an unexploded pipe bomb near the body. They called the Cook County sheriff's bomb squad, which disabled it.

INVESTIGATION ONGOING

After disabling the pipe bomb, investigators were left trying to determine why the man identified as Colin Dalebroux had two explosive devices. Police said Dalebroux "was known" to another police agency in Illinois, but offered no details.

Lawyers argue to drop Blago conviction

Chicago Tribune

Lawyers for former Gov. Rod Blagojevich are seeking to have his conviction for lying to the FBI thrown out, alleging that a "plethora of errors" led to the lone guilty verdict last month out of the 24 counts he faced.



Blagojevich

Blagojevich contended prosecutors brought an overly complicated case that confused the jury and then tried to limit his lawyers at every turn. Questioning of witnesses by the ex-governor's lawyers often was stopped by government objections and lectures from U.S. District Judge James Zagel.

"To be sure, the burden was on the government and the defendant had no obligation to put on a case," the defense motion said. "However, the defendant's fundamental right to defend himself through cross examination was stomped upon by obstructionist [and continuous] objections that were sustained by the Court."

The lone charge on Blagojevich was convicted stemmed from a 2005 interview in which the then-governor told an FBI agent that he was not involved in the details of fundraising.

"He noted that when he attends his events he becomes aware of some of those who are supporting him, but he does not track, or want to know, who is contributing or how much they are contributing to him," the defense quoted Murphy as saying in his report of the interview.

The defense contends that statement was taken out of context and that Blagojevich had been asked about fundraising just after being questioned about how state contracts were doled out.

The U.S. attorney's office had no immediate comment on the filing.

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BY NEIMAN MARCUS

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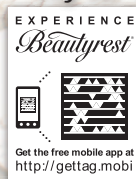
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Burned Quran found near Northwest Side center

Chicago Tribune

Chicago police are investigating the discovery of a burned copy of the Quran found outside the Muslim Community Center on the Northwest Side to determine if the book was damaged in a hate crime.

Some youths found the burned book on a sidewalk outside the community center at 4380 N. Elston Ave. in Old Irving Park about 1 p.m. Sunday, a day after the ninth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to police and the center's officials.

The teens were on their way to the center for a prayer session, said Mohammed Kaiseruddin, who is on the community center's board of direc-

tors. He said the youths quietly brought it into the building and turned it in.

"We feel like we've been victimized, that's for sure," Kaiseruddin said. "When we handle the Quran ourselves ... we treat it with the utmost respect. We never put a copy of the Quran down on the floor.

"From childhood, we tell children this is a book of respect and once they're finished reading they close the book and kiss it, and put it away," he said.

Kaiseruddin, who has been affiliated with the community center for more than 30 years, said he believes the burnt copy did not belong to the center. He said he doesn't recall an instance when

someone has desecrated one of the center's copies of the book.

Kaiseruddin believes the burning of the holy book may have stemmed from a widely publicized announcement made by an Evangelist pastor from Gainesville, Fla., that he would burn copies of the Quran to mark Saturday's anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The pastor, the Rev. Terry Jones of the Dove World Outreach Center, later canceled those plans.

Kaiseruddin said incidents like these may cause some Muslims to get emotional, but he wants those affiliated with the community center to carry on a "low-key" and "business-as-usual" attitude.

Chase banking sites offline for extended period

Chicago Tribune

Chase bank customers as of press time had been unable to conduct business online since Monday night, an uncommonly long stretch of downtime.

The online sites for retail banking and credit card transactions were down due to technical problems, according to Tom Kelly, a spokesman for parent company JPMorgan Chase & Co.

"It's an eternity in the online world," said Jacob Jegher, a senior analyst with Celent, a Boston-based financial services research and consulting firm.

Chase declined to comment on the cause of the problem. In the absence of information, speculation swirled on Twitter and on online message boards.

The possibilities are many, Jegher said. "It could be a security and fraud issue, or it could be more basic, a technical glitch."

Kelly offered assurances that customers' personal information and bank balances would remain secure.

The company's chairman and chief executive, Jamie Dimon, apologized for the technical problems at a banking conference in New York earlier in the afternoon, The New York Times reported.

The biggest issue for customers seemed to be an inability to pay bills online, Jegher said.

"If you're a last-minute person in terms of paying your bills ... you'll be unable to do it," he said. "The implications are late payments and fees."

IN OTHER NEWS...

A Chase bank robbery was reported to police Tuesday at the branch in the 2200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue in Bucktown. A source said the robber, a male who still is at large, used a note to commit the crime. It was not immediately known how much money the robber stole.



Dwyane Wade arrives for his custody hearing at the Daley Center on Tuesday.
E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE

CUSTODY DISPUTE STALLS

A last-minute attempt to settle the custody dispute between NBA star Dwyane Wade and his ex-wife failed Tuesday, lawyers said. Both sides met outside a Daley Center courtroom at the request of Judge Renee Goldfarb, who said she is worried about the couple's two young children. A custody trial started Monday before Goldfarb. The eleventh-hour negotiations fell through after Wade's former wife, Siohvaughn, wouldn't agree to send her 8-year-old son to a therapeutic boarding school as recommended by the children's court-appointed representative, said her lawyer, Michael Haber. **TRIBUNE**

Beaten teen leaves hospital

Thomas Insley, the 16-year-old Rogers Park boy who was beaten and choked unconscious on his way home from school Monday, was released from the hospital Tuesday evening, his father said.

Chicago State accreditation is affirmed

Chicago State University's accreditation has been reaffirmed after being in limbo for more than a year due to concerns about poor retention and graduation rates. First-time, full-time freshmen enrollment is down 12.9 percent from last year, to 513 students.

4 injured in Bronzeville car crash

Four people, three of them children, were injured in a traffic accident Tuesday in Bronzeville, according to the Chicago Fire Department. The crash, which involved two vehicles, happened at about 5 p.m. at East 47th Street and South Indiana Avenue.

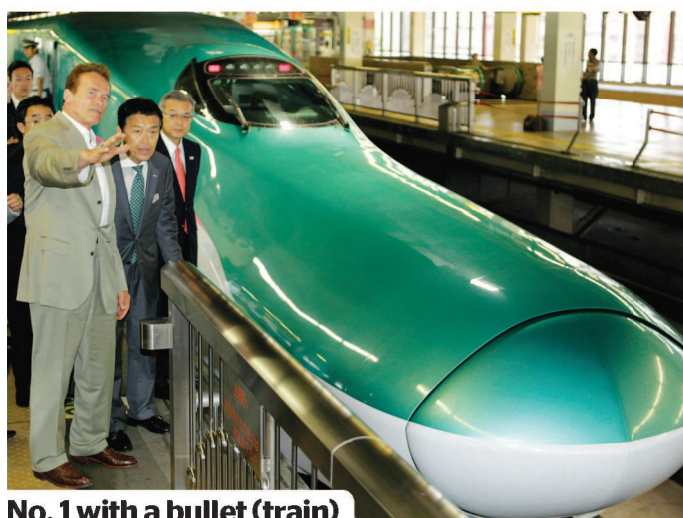
Collapsed porch used nails, not bolts

A deck that fell off a Tinley Park townhome Saturday sending 10 senior citizens to the hospital with minor injuries was determined to have been secured to the brick building with nails instead of anchor bolts, a village official said Tuesday. **TRIBUNE**



Tree toppers

1 Pakistani children in Faridabad, a town surrounded by floodwaters, climb a tree Tuesday to watch a navy helicopter take residents to higher ground. **GETTY IMAGES**



No. 1 with a bullet (train)

2 California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger—who is looking to update his state's rail system—checks out a high-speed train Tuesday during a tour in Saitama, Japan. **GETTY IMAGES**



Urgent rescue

3 A rescue worker searches Tuesday for three mountain climbers who got lost while trying to climb the Cocinero Hill at Los Alerces National Park in Chubut, Argentina. **GETTY IMAGES**

Let Obama be clear: He wrote kids' book

4 NEW YORK President Obama will release a children's picture book, inspired by his two daughters, that pays tribute to 13 influential Americans, publisher Random House said Tuesday.

Called "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters," the book was written by Obama before he took office in January 2009 and will be released Nov. 16, two weeks after the midterm elections. It is illustrated by award-winning author Loren Long.

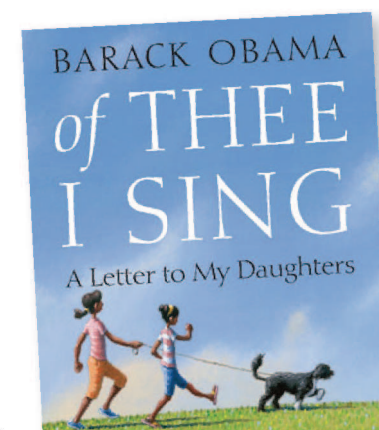
The book will address "groundbreaking Americans and the ideals that have shaped" the country, including George Washington; Jackie Robinson, the first black Major League Baseball player; and artist Georgia O'Keeffe, the publisher said. The 10 other subjects were not revealed.

Obama, who has written two bestselling books, "Dreams from My Father," and "The Audacity of Hope," was inspired to do the book through his experience as the father of two daughters, Malia, 12 and Sasha, 9, the publisher said.

It is part of a three-book, \$1.9 million deal Obama agreed to with Random House in 2004.

PRESIDENT'S PAYCHECK

"Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters" will have a 500,000 first-print run, and proceeds will be donated to a scholarship fund for fallen and disabled U.S. soldiers.



France bans face veils

5 The French senate approved Tuesday a law banning any veils that cover the face—including the burqa, the full-body covering worn by some Muslim women—making France the first European country to nationally impose such a measure. The legislation was overwhelmingly approved by the lower house of parliament in July and will go into effect next spring.

Iran releases one American

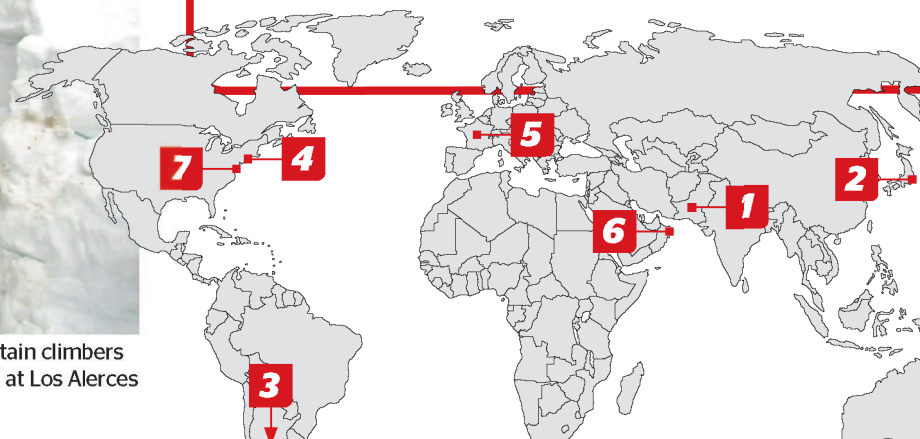
6 A jubilant Sarah Shourd reunited with her mother in Muscat, Oman, on Tuesday after Iranian authorities released the American from a Tehran prison where she had been held for 14 months. Shourd, 32, left behind fellow Americans Shane Bauer, who is her fiancé, and their friend, Josh Fattal, both 28. Iran accused the three of spying.

Feds announce oil spill suit

7 The Department of Justice announced Tuesday that it expected to file a civil suit against the oil companies involved in the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico for violation of federal environmental laws. The action by the Department of Justice could ultimately lead to heavy civil fines against BP or Transocean Ltd., the drilling-rig owner.

New name for 'corn syrup'?

The Corn Refiners Association said it petitioned the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to allow makers of high fructose corn syrup to call their product "corn sugar." "Independent research" shows current labeling confuses U.S. consumers, the association said Tuesday in a statement.



THE DIGIT

\$2.8 million

That's roughly \$3 million in Australian money, and about how much the country's federal and state governments expect to spend to bring "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to Australia as a way to promote tourism.

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sports

A member of the Wrigleyville Rhinos intercepts a kick by the Lincoln Park Piranhas.

BRENT LEWIS/
REDEYE PHOTOS

G'day for a football game

Forget softball—these guys get their kicks playing Australian rules football

By Eric Johnson | FOR REDEYE

Bears fever might already have taken hold of Chicago and college football has alums all over the city flocking to sports bars every Saturday, but some are immersed in another form of the game: Australian rules football.

While softball and bowling are standbys for many, scores of men—from paunchy neophytes to Aussie-tongued expats—have flocked to Chicago Australian Football, now a weekly staple at Waveland Field along the lakefront.

First played in Melbourne in 1858, Australian rules football—colloquially known as “footy”—is catching on as a high-adrenaline option for Americans looking for a team sport that is a mix of elevated endorphins, inter- and outer-league competition and skill. Not to mention boozy camaraderie.

And as those watching a mid-August match between the Lincoln Park Piranhas and the Wrigleyville Rhinos attested, footy is a frenetic and free-flowing combo of soccer and basketball.

“For most guys it’s the competitive spirit that draws them to footy,” said player and league president Frank Bradley, 34, of Lin-

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THE RULES

Australian Rules Football is a lot different than what the Bears play. Here are some of the sport’s rules and objectives.

» Two 18-player teams kick, hand off and run an oblong ball toward four goal posts of varying sizes at each end of an oval-shaped field about 164 yards long and about 147 yards wide.

» A match is divided into four 20-minute quarters. “Time on” is added to the playing time of the quarter when play is delayed by injuries, balls going out of bounds, etc.





LEFT: Australian rules football in action: the Wrigleyville Rhinos vs. the Lincoln Park Piranhas.

BELOW: The Lincoln Park Piranhas discuss plays during a game in August.



coln Square. "They put in so much work because they want to stay active. I mean, some guys go home, put on 'Top Chef' and call it a night. For us, this is an excuse to get out of the house, to get exercise and be social."

As Bradley spoke, he watched Lincoln Park boot the ball through the inner posts, scoring six points and taking the lead.

"I don't get really revved up playing softball," smirked Bradley, who works in construction. "Here you are tackling guys, you feel it. During the week you are sore; you know you played over the weekend."

"People get hooked."

Like Josh Stenger, 27, of North Center, who is in his first season as a forward and defenseman for Wrigleyville. Stenger, a chemist at Abbott Laboratories, said he was convinced to play by a guy with whom he rode the train to work.

"I never really got to play a physical sport in high school or college, so this is perfect for me," Stenger said. "It is a tough,

physical sport with hitting and running, but it is fun, and you also have the camaraderie. It's also something new, its own separate entity."

He said he plans on playing as long as his body will let him, citing the laundry list of nasty injuries—dislocated shoulders, torn ACLs, broken fingers, concussions—common to the game.

"I've been lucky so far," Stenger said. "The worst I've had is I've busted up a finger pretty good, lost a couple toenails from cleats coming down on them, and I fell backward and knocked my head on the ground."

He was quick to add that none of the injuries made him miss any time.

There are three teams in the Chicago Australian Football Association (aka the Metro league): Lincoln Park, Wrigleyville and Lincoln Square.

The best players of the three make up the United team, which has won the past three Mid-American Australian Football

League championships and competes in the U.S. Australian Football League against teams from across the country.

But injuries, competition and endorphins aside, what else lures the footy set?

Bradley pointed to economics, citing that other sports leagues cost about \$100 for two months of competition while footy costs that much for a March-through-October season.

And, of course, there is the social aspect, which Doug Malcolm, 29, a strategic planner at an advertising firm, talked about as he sipped a beer and celebrated with his Piranha teammates after their win.

"I mean look at me, I'm not a [bleeping] athlete," Malcolm said. "There is a learning curve, but your teammates help you learn. Plus, lots of Aussies love to drink."

Bradley summed it up best, perhaps.

"Everyone is pretty nice to each other—even if someone is bad. If you are socially fun, then you might be a star off the field."

ERIC JOHNSON IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

PITCH FEST

BASEBALL FROM BOTH SIDES OF TOWN.

Today's topic: Are the White Sox out of it?



north side

JULIE DICARO
twitter.com/
aleagueofherown

It's apparently hard for you Sox fans to be realistic about your chances while talking to a Cubs fan. You don't want me to see your weakness. I get it.

Look, the Sox are seven games behind the Twins in mid-September. If they were within three, I might be able to let your

fantastical devotion to your team slide. But to make the playoffs, the Sox have to make up those games in the next 18.

I've always thought Sox fans were the more reality-based in town. But let's be honest, making the postseason now would require a Twins collapse greater than that of the 2005 Sox. In case you forgot, the Sox had a 15-game lead Aug. 1, 2005. By Sept. 22, the lead was 1.5 games. If you can talk the Twins into pulling a South Side-esque slide, you might have a shot. Otherwise, get to know the Bears. **READ JULIE DICARO'S CUBS BLOG AT CHICAGONOW.COM/LEAGUE-OF-HER-OWN.**



south side

SOXMAN
twitter.com/
thesoxman72

I mean no disrespect to Cubs fans in saying this, but it's easy to throw in the towel when your 102-year-old postseason battle cry is: "Wait until next year!"

Die-hard White Sox fans "don't stop believing" until mathematical certainty says "this ball game is ovah." Statistics be damned. There is

an exception to the rule. So there's no need to remind us how few teams in the history of the game trailing by five games or more in September have made the postseason.

At least two times this year the common fan would have re-enacted the end of "Old Yeller" with the Sox season, yet in September we're still debating if they're in contention. Even if the entire Minnesota franchise would have to go on the disabled list for there to be Sox baseball in October, the true grinder never says "die" unless we're referring to 2005 World Series MVP Jermaine Dye.

Keep the faith, Sox fans! **READ SOXMAN'S MUSINGS AT TWITTER.COM/THE SOXMAN72.**

» **Scoring:** A ball kicked between the two larger goal posts without being touched is a goal worth six points. If the ball passes between the behind (or outer) posts, using any other legal method, the team gets one point.

» **Possession and tackling:** A player running with the ball must bounce the ball or touch it to the ground once every 15 meters (about 50 feet), though the distance is usually not strictly enforced, especially if the runner is under siege. A player in possession of the ball being held by an opponent must dispose of the ball immediately by kicking or handballing (advancing the ball with a clenched fist). Tackling is permitted between the shoulders and knees—you can't just rip someone's head off.

» **Penalties and free kicks:** Players can expect a whistle if they don't dispose of the ball when an opponent stops them or for improper ball handling. Players also will incur a penalty if they grab a ball-carrying opponent above the shoulder or below the knees or push him (or her) in the back.

» **Shepherding:** Similar to a football block or a basketball pick, shepherding is used to interfere with an opponent's movement toward (or shield an opponent from) the ball by pushing him in the chest or side. E.J.



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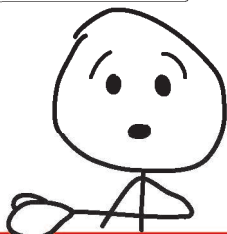
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five on five

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1 What are the most commonly heard words coming out of Bears players' mouths this week?	"I'm sorry. This never happens." (Words also heard in various Wrigleyville bro pads.)	"I really do need to call that referee to thank him."	"The WTC mosque debate misses a key point. We are all one people. Oh, and Jay's chick is hot."	"Hey Jay, Where are you taking Kristin Cavallari tonight? Does she have any single friends?"	"Where's Jay? ... What's he doing in New York?"
2 What's the No. 1 thing the Bears need to fix before they face Dallas on Sunday?	Fix the game. It worked well for them last week.	The Bears had more turnovers than a pastry factory.	The game. Whatever they paid the refs, more of that.	Their fourth-and-goal decision-making.	An ice cream sandwich. Homemade ones are the best.
3 Cubs-St. Louis is on ESPN, but White Sox-Minnesota is not because cardinal rule in TV: Fuzzy animals play better. The networks sure miss Lou.	... Darwin Barney facing off against Jeff Suppan in a meaningless game; America can't miss that!	... ESPN's East Coast bias.	... Minnesotans don't get cable.	... the outcome could be so obscene, they'll be fined by the FCC.
4 What might you see during a Lingerie Football League game on MTV2?	Working the Ds.	A different kind of fantasy football.	Jesse Camp selling peanuts.	The answer to this question is rated "R." Depends on how the offseason surgery went.	Oh, I wouldn't know anything about that naughty stuff.
5 Is skateboarding a sport?	If it is, then prostitution should be. Their tricks are also death-defying.	Nothing is a sport unless you can make it into a fantasy game. That's my policy.	It violates my first criteria for a sport: It can't be played on a skateboard.	Yes! You wear more protective gear than golf.	Yes, and The Flying Tomato is the greatest sports nickname ever.



"My doctor said
it could kill me"

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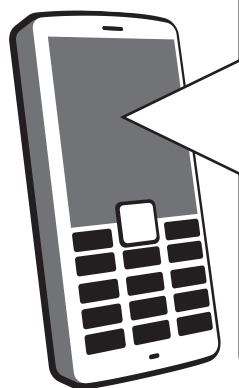
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Are You or Someone You Know Suffering From Lower Back Pain?

Northwestern University is seeking volunteers who have lower back pain in order to determine where the pain is recognized in the brain. Participants will also be evaluated to determine why pain goes away for some people while it remains for others. This is a 12 month study consisting of 1 visit at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and 5 MRI scans at Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Olson Pavilion. All visits will take place in downtown Chicago.

- Eligible participants must:**
- Be 18 years or older
 - Have a history of lower back pain which began 4-16 weeks ago with pain radiating into the buttocks or legs
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from news services **shortstops**

Hunter Hillenmeyer (92) and Pisa Tinoisamoa (59) tackle Arizona's Tim Hightower during a preseason game Aug. 28 at Soldier Field.

GETTY IMAGES

Hillenmeyer done

There isn't a player in the Bears locker room more aware of the dangers of brain injuries than Hunter Hillenmeyer, whose season ended Tuesday because of a concussion.

The team placed the veteran linebacker on injured reserve after he fell ill in Sunday's game, believing he was feeling the effects of a concussion suffered 15 days earlier in the Aug. 28 preseason game. Hillenmeyer didn't travel to Cleveland for the final exhibition, and the team issued a statement saying he had passed all medical tests before returning to practice last week.

The 29-year-old announced in February he is among a dozen NFL players who have pledged to donate their brain and spinal cord

tissue to the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston University. He has talked openly and often about player safety. Hillenmeyer is known to have suffered one other concussion, in the 2006 season opener at Green Bay.

"I have mixed emotions," Hillenmeyer said in the team's statement. "I respect the decision of [general manager Jerry Angelo and coach Lovie Smith] to place me on injured reserve. Concussions by nature are harder to evaluate than other injuries. While this is probably in my best interest and the team's, it is hard to accept ... my season is over in one game."

It's too early to tell if this will send Hill-

enmeyer into early retirement, a source said. But he has lifetime health to consider as he and his wife are expecting their first child in December.

Hillenmeyer is due to earn \$1.7 million this season and is signed through 2011. He said Tuesday morning in multiple radio appearances that he was feeling better but never hinted his season was ending.

The Bears have discussed re-signing Kevin Malast, who spent the past two preseasons with the team and was part of final cuts. He had a workout for St. Louis on Tuesday. J.D. Folsom is a linebacker on the practice squad, but he has been around only a week and doesn't know the Bears defense.

» Minnesota scored four times off White Sox starter John Danks on Tuesday, then put the game away with five runs off the bullpen in the eighth inning to claim a 9-3 win. The loss put the Sox seven games behind the Twins in the AL Central, and Minnesota's magic number is down to 12.

» Reggie Bush says he is forfeiting his Heisman Trophy. The New Orleans Saints running back released a statement Tuesday saying he would give back the award that he won in 2005 while he was at the University of Southern California. It's the first time college football's top award was returned by a recipient.

» Major League Soccer is expanding its regular-season schedule from 30 to 34 games next season following the addition of expansion teams in Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, British Columbia. The season will start March 19 and end Oct. 22, the league announced Tuesday.

» Fire sign Serbian midfielder Bratislav Ristic. » Cubs 7, St. Louis 2 » Green Bay Packers running back Ryan Grant out for season.

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Oktoberfest by the números

Breaking down German-style revelry in days, ounces and food courses

By Lisa Balde and Geoff George

Hike up those lederhosen and grab a liter o' brew: It's time to prost Oktoberfest. The annual celebration starts Saturday in Munich, but here in our own beer town, the unofficial, weeks-long celebration kicks off (or continues if you're still feeling the effects of last weekend's German-American Festival) with Berghoff Oktoberfest, starting Wednesday in Federal Plaza (219 S. Dearborn St.). Polka down to these by-the-numbers deals and events.

1 Dollar amount of one 3-ounce sample of up to 10 local Oktoberfest beers on tap at **Piece** (1927 W. North Ave.) during the Bucktown brewpub's annual release bash for its own Oktoberfest beer. Sip Marzen-style beers (\$4 pint) from Half Acre, Metropolitan, Mickey Finn's, Revolution and more. Oct. 7.

16 Ounces of Rocktoberfest Bier per \$5.50 glass at Rock Bottom Brewery starting Thursday during the beer's tapping party. On Oct. 9, head back to RB for Rocktoberfest (\$35 cover) to sample beer, eat knockwurst from a buffet and dance to live polka tunes. 6 p.m. (tapping party); noon (Rocktoberfest).

2 Liters of beer served in the glass boot at Resi's Bierstube (2034 W. Irving Park Road). The refreshing footwear is \$20 per table and perfect for sharing. Be warned, though: You'll need to surrender your credit card as a deposit in the event of breakage.

6 Nights in a row (Sept. 27-Oct. 2) Laschet's Inn (2119 W. Irving Park Rd.) serves up one of six Oktoberfest brews on tap: Hoffbräu, Ayinger, Spaten, Hacker-Pschorr, Würzburger and Warsteiner. You also can catch live music throughout the night Sept. 29 and 30, and don't miss a pig roast Oct. 2.

4 Hours (5-9 p.m.) you'll have to sample Ayinger Oktober Fest-Marzen, Dogfish Head Pumpkin Ale, Southern Tier Pumking and lots others during the Sept. 23 Oktoberfest & Pumpkin Beer Festival at Delilah's (2771 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-472-2771). \$20 cover buys you 20 tasting tickets.

2 Locations you'll find Uberstein's Oktoberfest festivities—in Wrigleyville (3478 N. Clark St.) and Bucktown (1745 W. North Ave.). Drink up \$10 Warsteiner liters, nosh on \$3 pretzels and \$3 Bavarian brats, and polka to the Oompapa Band. 7 p.m. Sept. 30. (Bucktown) 7 p.m. Oct. 1 (Wrigleyville).

5 German beers on tap (\$6 half-liters) starting Oct. 8 at Mirabell (3454 W. Addison St.). Raise a glass of Spaten, BBK, Hoffbrau, Kostritzer and Warsteiner while listening to Phenix Band (Oct. 8-9, 29-30) and Perlen Band (Oct. 22-23) and chowing on sausage, roast duck and haxen (pork knuckle).

4 Courses served during the Oktoberfest Beer Dinner at the Publican (837 W. Fulton Market). Feast on German-inspired dishes such as a house-made trio of sausages with choucroute (kraut) paired with German-style beers, including Three Floyds Brewing Co. Smoked Helles lager. 5 p.m. Sunday. \$75. Reservations required.

9 Hours that Chicago-based Die Lustigen Musikanten (Merry Musicians) will rock the stage with traditional tunes over two days at Oktoberfest Chicago (Lincoln and Southport avenues). Find them there at noon Sept. 25 and at 11 a.m. Sept. 26. The fest runs Sept. 24-26. \$5 donation benefits St. Alphonsus Church.

25 Anniversary of Berghoff Oktoberfest (219 S. Dearborn St.), selling beer and brats in the Loop through Friday. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. Free.

LISA BALDE IS THE METROMIX PRINT EDITOR. GEOFF GEORGE IS A METROMIX SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR. LBALDE@TRIBUNE.COM



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course lunch; 5:30-6:45 p.m. Wed., Sun.: \$40 three-course dinner menu; 616 N. Rush St. 312-660-6000.

* EPIC

Noon Thu.: Epic Table. Executive chef Stephen Wambach demonstrates how

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home. \$29. RSVP required; 112 W. Hubbard St. 312-222-4940.

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5-7:30 p.m. Wed.: \$28 three-course dinner; Thu.: Half-price bottles of wine; 260 E. Chestnut St. 312-787-8260.

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Wed.: Half-price martinis and bar menu; Thu.: Half-price bottles of wine with entree purchase; 5-10 p.m. Sun.: \$20 three-course dinner; 611 N. Fairbanks Ct. Doubletree Hotel Chicago. 312-224-2200.

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* ZOCALO

6:30 p.m. Thu.: Mexican Independence Day at Zocalo. Listen to live mariachi music while tasting Herradura blanco, reposado and anejo tequila. Includes two specialty cocktails, appetizers, a taco buffet, a raffle and a DJ. \$25. RSVP required; 358 W. Ontario St. 312-302-9977.

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RANDOM ACTS OF GREATNESS

5 THINGS WE'RE LOVING THIS WEEK



METROMIX FILE

1 Cafe Ba Ba Reebea (2024 N. Halsted St.). We were recently reminded that this always-hopping tapas spot actually turns out a lot of great dishes, namely the short rib-stuffed piquillo pepper (\$1.50), beef tenderloin and blue cheese (\$10.95) and braised lamb with spinach, couscous and almonds (\$8.95). —**MATT PAIS**

2 Sassy, clever greeting cards from local design duo 16 Sparrows. We couldn't resist scooping up one of their nontraditional wedding cards (a congrats checklist of tasks such as "wishing you both ... a long flatulent life together" or "... don't break the new china during a fight") over the weekend at Renegade Craft Fair. Pick up your own cards at **16sparrows.com** or at Two-Sided (2958 N. Clark St.). —**LISA BALDE**

3 The unexpected Black Friars Pint cocktail (\$13) at Sable Kitchen & Bar (505 N. State St.), with cardamom-spiced Guinness, Plymouth gin, sherry, bitters and egg white. Listed in Chapter 7 ("Trust me") of the 14-part drink menu, this awkward-sounding combo surprised our whole table with its smooth richness and autumn spice. It's the perfect after-dinner sipper, although ours also went great with bar snacks. —**REBECCA PALMORE**

4 Ample table space at Bucktown bar Green Eye (2403 W. Homer St.). We love that we're never left standing or throwing elbows to get to the bar. Plus, the absinthe-colored light from the windows (and the Martian tint it gives everyone inside) never gets old. —**GEOFF GEORGE**

5 Fire pit tables at Roof (201 N. State St.). On 90-degree days, the Loop lounge's fire-top tables were mesmerizing, but now we're appreciating them for providing cozy relief from chilly rooftop winds. —**LINDA HAYS**

JOIN THE RANDOMNESS!

What are you loving this week? Log onto **metromix.com** to send us your own Random Acts of Greatness. You might just spot your pick in a future issue.

WEDNESDAY \$1 DRINK DEALS

BLUELIGHT \$1 Miller High Life cans; 3251 N. Western Ave. 773-755-5875.	sion St. 773-252-2233.	HALSTED HARP \$1 sliders with cheese; 2138 N. Halsted St. 773-348-3665.	THE RAIL BAR & GRILL \$1 chili with drink purchase; 4709 N. Damen Ave. 773-878-9400.
CANS BAR \$1 hot dogs and sliders; 1640 N. Damen Ave. 773-227-2277.	FAITH & WHISKEY \$1 Cabo Wabo skinny margaritas; 1365 W. Fullerton Ave. 773-248-9119.	HIGH DIVE \$1 mini-cheeseburgers; 1938 W. Chicago Ave. 773-235-3483.	RED LINE TAP \$1 Bud Light drafts and select shots; 7006 N. Glenwood Ave. 773-274-5463.
CROSSROADS PUBLIC HOUSE \$1 Miller High Life pints; 2630 N. Clark St. 773-248-3900.	THE FULL SHILLING \$1 house cocktails and PBR drafts; 3724 N. Clark St. 773-248-3330	JOHN BARLEYCORN \$1 select sliders; 3524 N. Clark St. 773-549-6000.	SEDGWICK'S BAR & GRILL \$1 mini-pulled pork sandwiches; 1935 N. Sedgwick St. 312-337-7900.
DIVISION STREET BAR & GRILL \$1 PBR; 2525 W. Divi-	THE GRAND CENTRAL \$1 sliders; 950 W. Wrightwood Ave. 773-832-4000.	KINCADE'S \$1 domestic bottles; 950 W. Armitage Ave. 773-348-0010.	



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9-21 Iced Earth
Sons Of Liberty - All Ages!



9-24 Badfish (A Tribute to Sublime)
Scotty Don't, Full Service, Shotgun Elvis
- All Ages

10-2 Mike Posner **ARTIST OF THE MONTH**
- All Ages

10-3 Jason Derulo
Auburn - All Ages



10-9 Fun.
Steel Train, Jarrod Gorbel - All Ages

10-10 Ok Go - All Ages



10-12 Flyleaf
Story of the Year - 17+



10-17 Airwalk Presents: AP Tour feat.
Bring Me The Horizon,
August Burns Red
Polar Bear Club, This Is Hell, Emarosa
- All Ages

10-23 Anberlin
Crash Kings, Civil Twilight
- All Ages

10-26 Gwar
The Casualties, Mobile Death
Camp, Infemaeon - All Ages



10-27 Mayday Parade
Breathe Carolina, Every Avenue,
Artist vs Poet, GO RADIO - All Ages

10-29 Queensryche
- 17+



10-30 Motion City Soundtrack/
10-31 Say Anything
Saves The Day, Valencia
- All Ages

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BAR-GUMENTS

SETTLING AGE-OLD, BAR-BASED DISAGREEMENTS ONE ARGUMENT AT A TIME

What is a bar-gument, you say? For as long as there have been watering holes, there have been disagreements. Some people prefer martinis with gin, some with vodka. Bar-guments is here to settle some long-standing bar conflicts once and for all.

This week: Are bloody marys awesome or overrated?



NANCY STONE/TRIBUNE FILE

VS



AWESOME

What better way to start the morning and get rid of that nasty hangover than to sip a bloody mary over brunch? A bloody is so much better than the wimpy

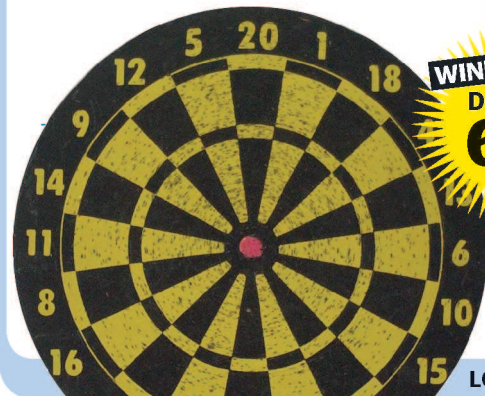
mimosa: Its spiciness gives you a tasty kick in the mouth to wake you up, and its ingredients are more nutritious than the empty calories of beer. I mean, it's practically a meal: pickles, celery sticks, cheese, salami, shrimp and olives. This is the breakfast of (drinking) champions. —LEONOR VIVANCO



OVERRATED

OK, so I'm nursing an extinction-level hangover and all I want is grease, cheese and some grease on the side. I ask for a drink and you send me a glass of V-8 and

vodka with a bunch of random vegetable crap in it? Who am I, Jack La Lanne? I don't need a fancy brunch drink; I need something to keep me alive until my team kicks off. You want to be cute? Get a mimosa and stop wasting your time with that bloody mary nonsense. —ERNEST WILKINS



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LAST WEEK'S RESULTS:
Which is the better bar game?

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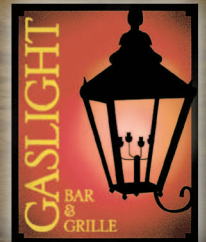
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The kegger can wait

For stripped-down rockers Margot & the Nuclear So and So's, the world is too dark to party

By Andy Downing

Since Margot & the Nuclear So and So's formed in 2004, each release has been bigger and more involved than the last, the band and its records growing in size and scope like a snowball transforming into a massive, icy orb as it tumbles down the frozen mountainside. This growth spurt peaked in 2008 when the orch-pop group, then boasting eight members, released two albums simultaneously on former label Epic Records: "Animal!" featuring songs the band favored, and "Not Animal," featuring songs the label preferred.

"I don't think it ended up going that well, but it's hard to regret any of it," says band founder, singer/guitarist Richard

Edwards, 26, who relocated to Logan Square from his native Indianapolis in 2008 and now resides in Ukrainian Village. "I don't think we ever thought Sony [which owns Epic] was going to be this long leg of our career. I think we thought we'd get in and out before they knew what hit them."

Since then, the group has stripped back both in size (to six members) and sound—a sonic shift that culminates in the lean, rock-ish "Buzzard," whose release the band celebrates at Sunday's show at Lincoln Hall.

Are you happy we finally have a president in the White House who would call you guys Margot & the Nuclear So and So's instead of the Nuke-u-lar So and So's?

Yeah, I'm happy with the president for multiple reasons, but that's probably the first one.

I wouldn't call your music political, but there are a few phrases that seem to tap into current apprehensions. "The whole world is closer to moral foreclosure," in the song "Birds," for instance.

I kind of recoil at a lot of overtly political art or music, so hopefully I never do that. But I do think that feeling of dread on some of our records, especially this one, is very much influenced by that because that's just how I feel day to day. I don't relate to dance music or making the best of things. I tend to gravitate towards the stuff that I feel is honest. And this doesn't seem like the time to have a nonstop kegger. Things feel a little dark to me now.

What effect did the band's smaller lineup have on "Buzzard's" sound?

It had everything to do with it. [Drummer/



**CHI
TUNES**

Margot and the Nuclear So and So's

When: 8 p.m. Sunday

Where: Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: \$12-\$15, 773-525-2501

Listen at metromix.com: "New York City Hotel Blues"

producer] Brian [Deck] and I talked about getting together with a small group and doing things as live as we could. With less people in there, it was also more focused. As much as having all those instruments can be exciting, they can also be limiting. I think on "Animal!" we felt like, "Well, all these people are here, we better use them!" We geeked out on the arranging and composition instead of thinking about the songs first.

Were there some bruised feelings when you told members they wouldn't be needed going forward?

Yeah. I think there are probably still some bruised feelings. After the touring for "Animal!" when we knew this was how we wanted to do this, I think it was difficult for everyone. We'd lived for four or five years as this one house of people that hung out together every day, so we were all brothers and sisters. It was difficult to have those conversations about moving forward in a different way.

Your first band, Archer Avenue, took its name from a Wes Anderson movie. Are there any films that capture the feel you were aiming for on this record?

When I moved here I got really into going to [video store] Odd Obsession (1822 N. Milwaukee Ave.), and they would hand

FASTFWD

THIS WEEK'S TOP 5 LIVE SHOWS

1. Omar Rodriguez-Lopez

8 p.m. Sat. at Congress Theater

The Mars Volta guitarist never stops.

2. Justin Townes Earle

10 p.m. Sat. at Lincoln Hall

Great singer-songwriter plays from new "Harlem River Blues."

3. Titus Andronicus

9 p.m. Sat. at Metro

They demolished Pitchfork.

4. Viva! Chicago Latin Music Festival

11 a.m. Fri.-Sat.

at Millennium Park
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5. Dave Matthews Band, Jason Mraz

7 p.m. Fri.-Sat. at

Wrigley Field
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Richard Edwards
(far left) and
Margot & the
Nuclear So and So's



me stuff constantly. There were a couple I was watching pretty intensely while writing: "Kamikaze Hearts," which is some weird, pseudo-documentary about this '70s porn star and her girlfriend, and "God's Angry Man," which is this Werner Herzog short about a televangelist. A lot of that filtered in, but I'm not always sure how.

Do you have a least favorite movie?

Sony sent me the first "Twilight" because there was some interest from someone at the studio to get indie bands to write songs for the soundtrack. That was one where I came out of it not understanding the appeal at all. It was a horrible movie.

ANDY DOWNING IS A METROMIX SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM

New releases



The Walkmen "Lisbon" (Fat Possum)

!!!
The Walkmen emerged from New York City in the early 2000s sounding like they were fresh off a street fight—scuffed up and scuzzy with bits of flesh and blood pinched beneath their dirty fingernails. On its surface, the band's sixth album is a much tamer affair, rich with sweeping string sections ("Blue as Your Blood"), hazy, Southwestern horns ("Stranded") and loose, languid tempos that seem to slow dance with frontman Hamilton Leithauser's casually drunken vocals. Like Robert De Niro near the close of "Raging Bull," there remains an undeniable sadness and instability lurking just beneath the surface. "There's broken glass all around my feet," Leithauser sings mysteriously on "Stranded," his weary voice matching the song's last-call waltz lockstep.

In concert: Oct. 13 at Metro



Mavis Staples "You Are Not Alone" (Anti-)

!!!
"You are not alone," intones soul/R&B legend Mavis Staples on the title track, one of two original tunes penned by producer and Wilco mastermind Jeff Tweedy (who also contributes guitar, bass and backing vocals). Throughout the covers-heavy effort, which finds the 71-year-old Chicago native tackling songs by the likes of Randy Newman and Allen Toussaint, Staples leaves little doubt about the higher power ready to provide that necessary comfort. "What I want/All I want," she sings on "Wrote a Song For Everyone," "is get you down to pray!" Staples shines; the ache in her voice is a rivers-deep instrument as warm and comforting as a favored quilt. Still, it's a shame the collected talent didn't stretch itself further musically. The album takes listeners to church but never quite shakes the rafters. **ANDY DOWNING, SPECIAL TO METROMIX**
In concert: Nov. 27 at Park West

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WEDNESDAY CONCERTS



THE AIRBORNE TOXIC EVENT, FEATURING THE CALDER QUARTET
7:30 p.m. Sold out. Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. 773-929-5959.

ALFONSO PONTICELLI AND SWING GITAN
9 p.m. \$6. Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

BIG TIME, TABITHA RAY AND THE TKOS, MARVIN TATE
8 p.m. \$7. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

BECKIE MENZIE AND FRIENDS
8 p.m. Free. Davenport's (in the piano bar), 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-278-1830.

BIG RAY AND CHICAGO'S MOST WANTED PRO JAM
9:30 p.m. \$5. B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted St. 773-528-1012.

CASPIAN, THE ALAYA CONSCIOUS, THE CROWN AND TWO CHAIRMEN, THE FELIX CULPA
7:30 p.m. \$8. Reggie's

THEE OH SEES

THE HOT MACHINES, PAUL CARY
9 p.m. \$12-\$14. Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2508.

Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

CENTRAL AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY
8:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

COBALT AND THE HIRED GUNS, RUN RUN RUN, PS I LOVE YOU
9 p.m. \$8. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

DAME MYRA HESS MEMORIAL CONCERT: ILANA SETAPEN, KUANG-HAO HUANG
12:15 p.m. Free. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. 312-744-6630.

ERIN MCDUGALD
6 p.m. Free. Crimson Lounge, 333 N. Dearborn St. Hotel Sax. 312-923-2473.

THE FALLEN RIVERS, BUXTER HOOT'N, TODD KESSLER AND THE NEW FOLK, JESSICA ROBBINS
8 p.m. \$8. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. 773-278-6600.

FRANK CATALANO SEXTET
2 a.m. Free. Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

THE GLITCH MOB, MARTYPARTY
9 p.m. \$19-\$21. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

GOOD WORK JOHNSON, ORMEN LANGE, ARBIT, DROUGHTS
8:30 p.m. \$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. 773-281-4444.

THE GROUNDKEEPERS
9 p.m. \$5 donation. Quenchers Saloon, 2401 N. Western Ave. 773-276-9730.

J.W. WILLIAMS BLUES BAND WITH PATRICIA SCOTT
9 p.m. \$8. Blue Chicago at Ohio, 536 N. Clark St. 312-661-0100.

JIM JONES REVUE, LASERS AND FAST AND S*, HILLBILLY CASINO, SONIC BOOM**
9 p.m. \$12. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

JOSHUA ABRAMS, MY SILENCE
9:30 p.m. \$8. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

LONIE WALKER AND HER BIG BAD ASS CO. BAND
11 p.m. Cover varies. The Underground Wonder Bar, 10 E. Walton St. 312-266-7761.

MAURICE VAUGHN, JIMMY BURNS BLUES BAND
9:30 p.m. \$12. Kingston Mines, 2548 N. Halsted St. 773-477-4646.

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8 and 10 p.m. \$5-\$10. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

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8 p.m. \$18-\$30. Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 847-492-8860.

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8 p.m. \$5-\$10. FitzGer-

ald's, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn. 708-788-2118.

RUSS PHILLIPS QUARTET

5 p.m. \$10. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

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9:30 p.m. \$5-\$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western

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9:30 p.m. \$10. Buddy Guy's Legends, 700 S. Wabash Ave. 312-427-0333.

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8 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.



TICKETBOOTH

YOUR ON-SALE CONCERT GUIDE



ON SALE NOON FRIDAY

Ricky Gervais

Tuesday, Sept. 28 (\$50, 18+) at Park West.

ON SALE 10 A.M. WEDNESDAY

Andy Davis, Wednesday, Nov. 10 (\$12, 21+) at Martyrs'.

J-San and the Analogue Sons, Keith and the Complications, Wednesday, Oct. 27 (\$7, 21+) at Martyrs'.

ON SALE 10 A.M. FRIDAY

Great Big Sea, Friday, Oct. 22 (\$23-\$28, 17+) at House of Blues.

Zane Lamprey, Thursday, Nov. 11 (\$20-\$28, 17+) at House of Blues.

Sister Hazel, Friday, Dec. 17, Saturday, Dec. 18 (\$26-\$28, 17+) at House of Blues.

ON SALE 11 A.M. FRIDAY

Lifehouse, Friday, Nov. 5 (\$35.66-\$59.24, all ages) at Chicago Theatre.

ON SALE NOON FRIDAY

Aloe Blacc, Friday, Nov. 12 (\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

Atlantic/Pacific, Friday, Dec. 3 (\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

Bo Burnham, Saturday, Oct. 23 (\$25, early show: all ages; late show: 17+) at Park West.

Candy Claws, The Chain Gang of 1974, Wednesday, Nov. 3 (\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

Danielle Ate the Sandwich, Friday, Nov. 19 (\$10, all ages) at Schubas.

Freelance Whales, Miniature Tigers, Thursday, Dec. 2 (\$15, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

Futurebirds, Jonny Corndog, Friday, Nov. 19 (\$8-\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

Ricky Gervais, Tuesday, Sept. 28 (\$50, 18+) at Park West.

The Moondoggies, Wednesday, Nov. 10 (\$8-\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

Peter Mulvey, Dave McGraw, Friday, Dec. 3 (\$14, 21+) at Schubas.

No Age, Lucky Dragons, Sunday, Nov. 21 (\$15, all ages) at Lincoln

Hall.

Smith Westerns, Friday, Nov. 5 (\$12, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

Stornoway, Franz Nicolay and Major General, Sunday, Nov. 28 (\$12-\$14, 18+) at Schubas.

Tim and Eric Awesome Tour, Great Job! Chrimbus Spectacular 2010, Thursday, Nov. 18 (\$27.50, all ages) at Vic Theatre.

Two Cow Garage, Tuesday, Nov. 23 (\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

Wakey! Wakey!, Jenny Owen Youngs, Thursday, Nov. 4 (\$12-\$14, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.



ON SALE 10 A.M. SATURDAY

The Black Keys

The Greenhornes, Friday, Dec. 31 (\$50, 18+) at Aragon.

« page 32

Ben Weaver, Saturday, Nov. 13 (\$10-\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

ON SALE 10 A.M. SATURDAY

Brandon Flowers, Tuesday, Nov. 23 (\$30, all ages) at Riviera Theatre.

Gold Motel, Saturday, Nov. 27 (\$10-\$12, all ages) at Subterranean.

Mike Gordon, Thursday, Nov. 18 (\$25, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

The Gracious Few, American Bang, Friday, Nov. 12 (\$19, 21+) at Double Door.

Misfits, Juicehead, The Turbo Vamps, Sunday, Oct. 31 (\$22.50, 18+) at Vic Theatre.

The Rocket Summer, Friday, Oct. 29 (\$17, all ages) at Beat Kitchen.

ON SALE NOON SATURDAY

Ariel Pink's Haunted Graffiti, Os Mutantes, Friday, Nov. 19 (\$21, 18+) at Metro.

Arms, Sunday, Oct. 24 (\$10, 21+) at Double Door.

Barehand Jugband, Monday, Dec. 13 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.

Black Taxi, Tuesday, Nov. 9 (\$8, 21+) at Double Door.

Daedalus, The Gaslamp Killer, 12th Planet, Teebs, Friday, Oct. 29 (\$20, 21+) at Double Door.

Delta Spirit, Darker My Love, The Fling, Saturday, Dec. 4 (\$16, 18+) at Metro.

Eprom, Nastynasty, Salva, Epcot, Popstatic, Saturday, Oct. 23 (\$5-\$13, 21+) at Smart Bar.

Donavon Frankenreiter, Ximena Sarinana, Thursday, Nov. 18 (\$18-\$21, 21+) at Double Door.

The F* You Kiss My Asses, Let Me Crazy**, Sunday, Oct. 17 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.

The Information Superhighway, Leaf Bird, Thursday, Nov.

11 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.

Matt Kelly, Milk and Honey, Ami Saraiya, Pet Peeve, Saturday, Dec. 4 (\$8, 21+) at Double Door.

Luring Thieves, Thunder Driver, Plastic Boots, Wednesday, Jan. 5 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.

Mitch Mead, Elvisbride, Mark Kroos, Monday, Nov. 22 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.

Orchard Lounge, Chris Santiago, Friday, Oct. 8 (\$5-\$12, 21+) at Smart Bar.

Remington Pettygrove, Sarah Holtschlag and the Crosscuts, Andrew Pelletier, Phil Lomac, Wednesday, Oct. 20 (\$5-\$7, 21+) at Double Door.

Project .44, Apocalypse Theater, Cyanotic, Wednesday, Dec. 15 (\$7, 21+) at Double Door.

Soulive, Friday, Nov. 19 (\$17.50-\$20, 21+) at

Double Door.

Steve Robinson and the Foundation, Jennifer Benson and the Mission, St8 of Grace, Tuesday, Nov. 16 (\$7, 21+) at Double Door.

Tame Impala, Stardeath and White Dwarfs, Kuroma, Friday, Nov. 26 (\$12, 21+) at Double Door.

They All Have Legs, Bear Lake, Sunday, Dec. 19 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.

ON SALE NOW

Grandchildren, Dinosaur Feathers, Thursday, Oct. 14 (\$10, 17+) at Beat Kitchen.

Macy Gray, Thursday, Oct. 7 (\$30, 18+) at Park West.

Green River Ordinance, Wednesday, Nov. 10 (\$12, all ages) at Space.

Natives, Saturday, Nov. 27 (\$10, 17+) at Beat Kitchen.



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Against the Graney

The Hypocrites' eclectic artistic director reinvents Shakespeare in Hyde Park

By Julia Borcherts

In a city where innovative theater is the norm, it's not easy to stand out. But Jeff Award-winning theater artist Sean Graney, 37, has managed to do so, making a name for himself by staging avant-garde plays and breathing new life into classics. The Boston native, who arrived in Chicago in 1995 and founded the Hypocrites theater company in '97, also has logged hours with the Court Theatre, Steppenwolf and other local companies.

In his third collaboration with the Court, Graney directs his adaptation of "The Comedy of Errors," Shakespeare's classic farce about two sets of twins separated at birth. Graney steps out of the box by relying on six actors to portray 23 roles, finding fresh takes on the comic angles in the script and exploring the play's darker themes. We called him during rehearsals to catch up.

Why did you decide to move to Chicago?

I went to school in Boston and for a year after that tried to self-produce some work. It wasn't very successful and I unjustly blamed Boston. [Laughs] Then I visited Chicago and saw "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind" by the Neo-Futurists, and I was like, "If that show can be running for a while, then this is the city that I want to be in."

The Hypocrites is a company known for reinventing classics, but you started with absurdist plays. How did that shift unfold?

ON STAGE

The Comedy of Errors

Court Theatre,
5535 S. Ellis Ave.

When: Previews start Thursday.
Through Oct. 17

Tickets: \$30-\$60; 773-753-4472

I liked the absurdists—they were plays that I really loved and really spoke to me, and I was sort of against classic theater—although as literature, I really enjoyed it. You see some bad college productions of "The Cherry Orchard" and you're like, "Oh my God, I hate Chekhov," but then you start seeing great theater companies in Chicago do great work with these plays. As I started to see more and had the desire to learn more, it made me relax a little and explore the love I have reading these plays by actually directing [them].

How did you approach "The Comedy of Errors" for your adaptation?

I wanted to create a really fun theatrical environment for the audience that wasn't the typical buffoonery [often] associated with this play. I like more situational things and I find awkwardness terribly funny. [Laughs] The potential for awkwardness was super-super high. There's people misunderstanding things—one person talking about something they've talked about with another twin, but they think that they're talking to the same person. I wanted to embrace that and make it less about clowns and more about real situations.

Something else that I find interesting is



Sean Graney (right) in 'The Comedy of Errors'

this idea of economically driven xenophobia. There's a law that anybody who comes to Ephesus from Syracuse gets arrested and killed if they don't pay a ransom. There's commerce trouble between these two towns and so this guy is going to be killed because he's a foreigner.

A concept that may unfortunately still

be relevant?

I've never been interested in [announcing], "Hey, audience, this is like what's going on in Arizona!" But I'm hoping that people realize some of the thoughts behind this.

INTERVIEW HAS BEEN EDITED AND CONDENSED.

JULIA BORCHERTS IS A METROMIX SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM



FIVE2SEE: THIS WEEK'S TOP LIVE SHOWS

BY REBECCA PALMORE

Candide

A musical adaptation of Voltaire's comic story of a man repeatedly separated from his true love through a series of misadventures. Opens Friday. Through Oct. 31. \$25-\$85. Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St. 312-443-3800.

Detroit

Laurie Metcalf stars in this drama about a couple whose seemingly perfect life collapses. Previews through Saturday; regular run through Nov. 7. \$20-\$70. Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. 312-335-1650.

Romeo and Juliet

Australian theater arts vet Gale Edwards directs Shakespeare's romantic tragedy. Opens Wednesday. Through Nov. 14. \$44-\$75. Chicago Shakespeare Theater, 800 E. Grand Ave. 312-595-5600.

The Variety Show

The latest in the interactive "Drinking Game Performance" series features sketch, improv, music, drinking games and more. BYOB. Continues Friday. Through Sept. 24. \$10. The Conservatory, 4210 N. Lincoln Ave. 312-409-6435.

The Weir

Olivier Award-winning drama is set in Ireland, where pub-goers spin ghost stories. Continues Thursday. Through Oct. 3. \$22-\$26. Seanachai Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. 866-811-4111.

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When wine is paired with food, flavor combinations are created in your mouth that can enhance or diminish your dining experience. With thousands of combinations to choose from, it can be difficult and cumbersome to figure out what makes a good pairing.

In general, lighter foods pair with lighter wines and heavier foods match nicely with richer selections. Don't bother sticking to outdated rules such as white wine with fish or red wine with meat. It is just as important to consider the cooking method and sauces as it is the primary protein.

For example, consider a piece of salmon that has been poached and is accompanied by salad greens tossed with a citrus vinaigrette. Since we are dealing with a lighter cooking method and a tangy dressing, I would recommend a lemony, light-bodied white wine such as sauvignon blanc or pinot grigio. If that same piece of salmon were grilled and coated in a spicy-sweet barbecue sauce, then perhaps I would suggest a heavier red wine such as a full-bodied and fruit-forward malbec that will stand up to the assertive grill flavors and sauce.

Here are some other guidelines to consider when coming up with food and wine pairing combinations. **REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR ALPANA SINGH IS DIRECTOR OF WINE AND SPIRITS FOR LETTUCE ENTERTAIN YOU ENTERPRISES AND THE HOST OF "CHECK, PLEASE!" ON WTTW. ALPANASINGH.COM**

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Acid goes with acid

Vinaigrettes or sauces with citrus juice need bright and lemony wines such as sauvignon blanc, gruner veltliner or albarino.

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The tannins in dry red wines such as cabernet sauvignon can help cut through the fatty richness of steaks.

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BOOK

'The Book of 'Unnecessary' Quotation Marks'

By Bethany Keeley

As an editor, I find improper and/or extraneous punctuation maddening, so this book made me cringe but

also chuckle. The signs the author has compiled—some crude homemade creations, others that appear to be professionally assembled and

permanently affixed to buildings—left me shaking my head. For example: "Live" lobsters and please "flush" the toilet after using. Pick up a copy of this book, which includes funny commentary on the signs, for the lover of proper punctuation in your life.

EMILY ROSENBAUM MAKAR, REDEYE



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Jake Gyllenhaal stars as the prince in this fast-paced cliffhanger adventure. He joins forces with a princess (Gemma Arterton) to control a magical dagger that has the power to reverse time. This is a fun film filled with dazzling special effects. It includes a standard DVD version and digital copy of the movie. DOUG NYE, MCT

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SONG

'Cruise Control'

By C-Rich; listen at redeyechicago.com/kylesfiles

Track-off voters wanted to hitch a ride with C-Rich, a local singer whose "Cruise Control" shot him straight to a win. The bass-bumping bedroom romp with a slick, synthesized sound took 78 percent of the vote against competitor Phenom's consciousness-raising, futuristic-sounding "Lockdown." You can vote every Monday in the weekly battle of Chi-town artists.

KYRA KYLES, REDEYE

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Ex-Chicagoan pulls popular game's strings

By Ryan Smith

FOR REDEYE

Microsoft's "Halo" mega franchise has been music to former Chicagoan Marty O'Donnell's ears—and vice versa.

Frantic action and eye-popping spectacle might lie at the heart of the video game series, but the music of Bungie audio director O'Donnell helps provide the games' soul. Since the first "Halo" was released in 2001, the soundtracks for the series have won multiple awards for their stirring orchestral arrangements of strings, piano and drums, and haunting Gregorian chants.

For "Halo: Reach," out this week, O'Donnell took a different approach.

While he describes the music for the older games as "epic, mysterious and ancient," O'Donnell said he has composed new music that is "heroic, sacrificial and tragic" to reflect the prequel's overall mood.

RedEye talked with the man behind "Halo's" sounds.

You've been composing for a long time, but it's your work on "Halo" that's gotten a lot of attention. What's it like being connected to a popular gaming franchise?

I've been surprised by the notoriety. I've written a few famous jingles that have lasted a while, but no one ever asked for my autograph until "Halo." Somehow, everything seemed to be at the right place at the right time when we released "Halo" in 2001. The Xbox was brand new—surround sound for games, great looking graphics, cinematic experiences and great multiplayer all came together, and the music associated with all that seemed to embed itself in the minds of all the fans. It's been a great ride.



O'Donnell

How would you describe the music for "Halo: Reach" and how is it different from the sounds from previous "Halo" titles?

The story of "Reach" is one of heroic sacrifice and the music needed to reflect that. There are more somber and reflective moments in the game as well as high-action heroic moments.

Is there anything new and surprising in the soundtrack we can expect?

Listen for a child's singing voice; it's a bit creepy and poignant at the same time. I also relied a bit more than usual on the low brass.

You've worked with Master Chief for years, but now Bungie is done with "Halo." How do you feel about the character after all this time?

I love Master Chief and it's bittersweet to give his story over to new folks to continue. However, I'm pretty excited for the future and there's nothing preventing us from hiring some of our favorite actors to voice some new characters.

RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

'Halo: Reach'



"It probably won't win many new converts, but 'Reach' is a 'Halo' fan's dream come true."

Read Ryan's full review of "Halo: Reach" at chicagonow.com/gamesmith.

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WEDNESDAY****‘Outlaw’***9 p.m. Wednesday, NBC*

One of the worst new shows of the fall TV season has its sneak peek premiere before being quickly forgotten in its regular Friday night time slot. Jimmy Smits' ample charisma fizzles as Cyrus Garza, a gambling, womanizing Supreme Court justice who quits to help the little people in this criminally bad courtroom drama. **CURT WAGNER, REDEYE**

» Go to **showpatrolTV.com** for the best and worst shows of the fall.

ALSO ON**‘Survivor: Nicaragua’***7 p.m. Wednesday, CBS***Sheetal Bhagat
FOX TV**

‘MasterChef’ finalist more than just a cook

Chicago Tribune

Fox's latest cooking competition, “MasterChef,” closes out its first season at 7 p.m. Wednesday with Chicago's Sheetal Bhagat poised to be crowned America's best amateur chef. Bhagat wouldn't say which of the four finalists emerges victorious when we chatted last week, but she did talk about many other subjects. Here are a few things we learned:

» Her name rhymes with “beetle” even though many people rhyme it with “patel.”

» Though viewers remember her as the one who didn't want to kill the dungeness crab because she was raised in a vegetarian Hindu household, she is NOT a vegetarian. “All of these blogs were saying ‘It's not called “Vegetarian MasterChef,” how does a vegetarian expect to be a real chef?’ and I was like, ‘I'm not a vegetarian.’ But I also got hate mail from people who thought I sold out my religion to win the challenge.”

» Although the show bills her as a teacher, she's mostly a choral singer and cantor. The

alto's main gig is as a liturgical vocalist at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Lakeview. But she also sings with the William Ferris Chorale and on records including her 2004 East-West fusion album “Love of Ages” and her pop single “Flight 544,” which raises money for charity.

» She loves the white pizza at Spacca Napoli in Ravenswood.

» She loves the panang curry, pad thai and papaya salad at Thai Spice in Edgewater.

» She says Gordon Ramsay is “really sweet and nice, especially if you share his passion for food.”

» Although many call chef Graham Elliot the “Paula Abdul of the show, he is not. But he is the real teacher of the bunch. He really wants to impart his knowledge. When we got back to Chicago, I even spent a few nights staging [cooking and learning] in his kitchen.”

» She is single but way “too focused on her career for something” that will tie her down.

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G - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian

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■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) 1:00,3:15,5:45,8:15,10:45
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife** (R) ♦ 1:40,4:15,7:00,9:40
■ **Going the Distance** (R) ♦ 3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30
■ **AMC Independent The American** (R) 1:30,4:30,7:15,10:00
■ **Takers** (PG-13) ♦ 1:50,4:45,7:30,10:10
■ **The Switch** (PG-13) 1:15,3:45,10:15
■ **Eat Pray Love** (PG-13) 3:30,6:45,9:50
■ **The Other Guys** (PG-13) 2:15,5:00,7:40,10:20
■ **Inception** (PG-13) 2:30,6:15,9:30

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■ **The Tillman Story** (R) 1:50,4:30,7:30,10:15
■ **Mesrine: Public Enemy No. 1** (R) 4:25,10:00
■ **Mesrine: Killer Instinct** (R) 1:40,7:20
■ **Cairo Time** (PG) 1:55,4:10,7:40,9:50
■ **Get Low** (PG-13) 1:40,4:15,7:10,9:55
■ **The Kids Are All Right** (R) 1:30,4:20,7:00,10:10
■ **Soul Kitchen** (NR) 1:45,4:35,7:15,9:40
■ **I'm Still Here** (NR) 2:00,4:40,7:25,10:05

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)

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■ **Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps** (PG-13)
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■ **Easy A** (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) 12:00,12:15,2:30,2:45,
5:15,7:45,10:10,10:30
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife** (R) 1:30,4:10,6:50,9:30
■ **Machete** (R) 12:30,1:00,3:20,4:00,6:20,7:00,9:20,10:00
■ **Going the Distance** (R) 12:50,2:15,4:50,6:40,7:40,10:15
■ **The American** (R) 12:20,3:00,5:30,7:55,10:20
■ **Takers** (PG-13) 1:50,4:30,7:10,9:45
■ **The Last Exorcism** (PG-13) 1:10,3:20,5:45,8:10,10:35
■ **Scott Pilgrim vs. the World** (PG-13) 12:40,3:15,6:00,9:00
■ **The Expendables** (R) 2:00,4:40,7:20,9:50
■ **The Other Guys** (PG-13) 1:20,3:50,6:30,9:15
■ **Inception** (PG-13) 3:30,9:40
■ **The Twilight Saga: Eclipse** (PG-13) 12:05,3:10,6:10,9:10

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife** (R) ★ 5:40,7:40,9:45
■ **The American** (R) ★ 5:10,7:30,9:50
■ **Eat Pray Love** (PG-13) 7:10,9:50
■ **Inception** (PG-13) 7:00,10:00

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th., Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) ♦ 10:15,12:45,3:15,5:45,8:15
■ **Going the Distance** (R) 11:45,2:10,4:45,7:15,9:40
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife** (R) ♦ 11:30,2:00,4:30,7:00,9:45
■ **Takers** (PG-13) ♦ 10:35,11:35,12:00,2:20,4:10,5:10,6:45,7:45,9:30,10:25
■ **Machete** (R) 10:25,11:25,12:55,1:55,3:25,4:25,5:50,6:50,8:20,9:20
■ **Lottery Ticket** (PG-13) ♦ 10:30,12:50,3:10,5:30,6:55,7:55,9:15,10:20
■ **The Last Exorcism** (PG-13) 11:00,1:15,3:30,5:55,8:10,10:30
■ **Nanny McPhee Returns** (PG) 10:45,1:30,4:15
■ **Piranha** (R) 10:20,12:30,2:45,4:55,7:05,9:25
■ **The Expendables** (R) 11:55,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:10
■ **Vampires Suck** (PG-13) 10:55,1:05,3:20,5:25,7:35,9:50
■ **Despicable Me** (PG) 10:15,12:35,2:50,5:05,7:20,10:00

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street
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■ **La Vérité** (NR) 6:00 P.M.
■ **Exit Through the Gift Shop** (R) 6:15,8:00
■ **Made in China** (NR) 8:30 P.M.

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

■ **Scott Pilgrim vs. the World** (PG-13) 1:00,3:10,5:20,7:30,9:50
■ **Salt** (PG-13) 1:00,3:15,5:15,7:25,9:35
■ **Toy Story 3** (G) 1:15,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:40
■ **Despicable Me** (PG) 12:55,2:40,4:30,6:30,8:20,10:05

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

■ **The Sicilian Girl** (NR) 4:30,9:40
■ **Chicago United Film Festival 2010** (NR)
■ **Carmen Jones** (NR) 7:00 P.M.

PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

■ **AMC Independent Bran Nue Dae** (PG-13) 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:50
■ **AMC Independent Mao's Last Dancer** (PG) 1:40,4:20
■ **AMC Independent The Concert** (PG-13) 2:00,7:15
■ **AMC Independent I Am Love** (R) 4:30 P.M.
■ **The Girl Who Played With Fire** (R) 1:00,3:45,6:30

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) 11:00,12:40,1:40,
3:20,4:20,6:00,7:00,8:35,9:35
■ **Going the Distance** (R) 11:35,1:25,2:25,4:00,5:00,7:05,8:05,10:05
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife** (R) ♦ 11:45,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:15
■ **Machete** (R) ♦ 11:15,2:00,4:45,7:30,10:20
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■ **Piranha 3D** (R) 1:40 P.M.
■ **Lottery Ticket** (PG-13) 11:50,2:15,5:10,7:50,10:35
■ **The Switch** (PG-13) 11:50,2:15,5:10,7:50,10:35
■ **Nanny McPhee Returns** (PG) 12:50,3:25
■ **Eat Pray Love** (PG-13) 12:00,3:15,6:30,9:40
■ **The Expendables** (R) 1:20,4:10,6:55,9:35
■ **The Other Guys** (PG-13) 1:30,4:20,7:00,9:50
■ **Scott Pilgrim vs. the World** (PG-13) ♦ 11:40,2:15,4:50,7:25,10:00
■ **Dinner for Schmucks** (PG-13) 11:10,2:00,4:55,7:40,10:20
■ **Step Up 3D** (PG-13) 11:05,9:20
■ **Inception** (PG-13) 12:00,3:15,6:40,10:10
■ **Salt** (PG-13) 11:25,1:55,4:25,7:20,10:00
■ **Despicable Me** (PG) 11:30,2:05,4:30

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309

■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) 11:00,11:50,1:40,
2:30,4:20,5:10,7:00,7:50,9:40,10:30
■ **Going the Distance** (R) 10:35,12:00,1:15,2:45,4:05,
5:30,6:50,8:15,9:35,10:45
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife** (R) 10:15,12:45,3:25,6:05,8:45,11:00
■ **Machete** (R) 10:50,1:35,4:30,7:20,10:10
■ **AMC Independent The American** (R) 10:55,1:50,4:40,7:30,10:20
■ **Takers** (PG-13) 10:10,11:40,12:50,2:35,3:40,5:20,6:30,8:10,9:20,10:50
■ **The Last Exorcism** (PG-13) 11:10,1:30,4:10,6:40,8:00,9:10,10:35
■ **Piranha 3D** (R) 4:35,9:55
■ **The Switch** (PG-13) 11:05,1:45,7:15
■ **Eat Pray Love** (PG-13) 10:00,1:05,4:25,7:40,10:40
■ **Nanny McPhee Returns** (PG) 11:30,2:20,5:05
■ **The Expendables** (R) 10:00,12:25,3:10,5:55,8:40,11:00
■ **Scott Pilgrim vs. the World** (PG-13) 12:40,5:50,10:55
■ **Salt** (PG-13) 10:10,3:20,8:30
■ **The Other Guys** (PG-13) 10:40,1:25,4:15,7:10,10:00
■ **Inception** (PG-13) 10:05,1:20,4:50,8:20

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
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■ **Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps** (PG-13)
Advance Tickets Available
■ **Easy A** (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
■ **The American** (R) 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00
■ **Going the Distance** (R) 12:20,1:30,2:45,4:00,5:15,6:30,
7:45,9:10,10:15
■ **Machete** (R) 12:10,2:50,5:20,8:00,10:30
■ **Takers** (PG-13) 2:10,4:40,7:15,9:45
■ **The Last Exorcism** (PG-13) 1:40,3:50,6:00,8:10,10:20
■ **The Switch** (PG-13) 1:20,4:15,7:00,9:30
■ **Eat Pray Love** (PG-13) 12:15,3:15,6:15,9:15
■ **The Other Guys** (PG-13) 1:45,4:20,7:10,9:40
■ **Inception** (PG-13) 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:05

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
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■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) 2:15,4:45,7:15,9:45
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife** (R) 1:15,3:45,6:15,8:45
■ **Going the Distance** (R) 1:35,4:10,6:50,9:25
■ **Machete** (R) 1:55,4:40,7:25,10:10
■ **Takers** (PG-13) 12:00,1:00,2:30,3:30,5:00,6:00,7:30,8:30,10:00
■ **AMC Independent The American** (R) 12:05,2:35,5:05,7:35,10:05
■ **Lottery Ticket** (PG-13) 1:30,4:05,6:30,8:00,9:00,10:30
■ **The Last Exorcism** (PG-13) 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15
■ **Nanny McPhee Returns** (PG) 1:40,4:35,7:20
■ **Vampires Suck** (PG-13) 12:10,2:40,4:50,7:10,9:20
■ **The Expendables** (R) 1:45,4:30,7:00,9:30
■ **The Other Guys** (PG-13) 1:50,4:25,7:05,9:40
■ **Despicable Me** (PG) 12:30,3:00,5:30
■ **Step Up 3** (PG-13) 9:50 P.M.

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

4779 W. Cermak, Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644

■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15
■ **Going the Distance** (R) 2:10,4:40,7:05,9:35
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife** (R) 1:30,4:00,6:30,9:00
■ **Machete** (R) 1:45,3:15,4:15,5:45,7:00,8:30,9:30
■ **AMC Independent The American** (R) 2:15,4:45,7:15,9:50
■ **Takers** (PG-13) 1:50,4:10,5:30,6:45,8:00,9:15,10:30
■ **The Last Exorcism** (PG-13) 12:30,2:40,4:50,7:10,9:10
■ **Lottery Ticket** (PG-13) 12:20,2:50,5:20,7:40,10:00
■ **Piranha** (R) 1:00,3:10,5:25,7:50,10:20
■ **The Expendables** (R) 2:30,5:00,7:20,9:45
■ **Vampires Suck** (PG-13) 1:20,3:45,5:50,8:00,10:10
■ **The Other Guys** (PG-13) 1:05,3:40,6:10,8:10

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■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) ★ 7:50,10:30
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) ★ 12:20,1:50,2:20,3:30,
4:30,5:00,6:00,7:00,8:30,9:30
■ **Bran Nue Dae** (PG-13) ★ 12:40,3:00,5:15,7:40,10:10
■ **Machete** (R) ★ 7:30,10:15
■ **Going the Distance** (R) ★ 1:10,3:40,6:20,9:20
■ **Machete** (R) ★ 1:30,4:40
■ **The American** (R) ★ 12:30,1:40,3:20,4:20,6:10,7:20,8:45,10:00
■ **Takers** (PG-13) 7:10,9:55
■ **Takers** (PG-13) 1:20,4:10
■ **Eat Pray Love** (PG-13) 12:50,3:50,7:15,10:20
■ **The Expendables** (R) 2:00,4:50,7:45,10:25
■ **Scott Pilgrim vs. the World** (PG-13) 5:20,8:10,10:50
■ **The Other Guys** (PG-13) 2:40,5:10,8:00,10:40
■ **Inception** (PG-13) 2:50,6:30,9:45
■ **The Twilight Saga: Eclipse** (PG-13) 12:45,3:45,6:45,9:50

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■ **The American** (R) ★ **VIP Premium 21+** 12:30,1:40,3:20,
4:20,6:10,7:20,8:45,10:00

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■ **Eat Pray Love** (PG-13) 1:00,3:55,6:50,9:45
■ **Inception** (PG-13) 2:20,5:25,8:30
■ **Going the Distance** (R) ★ 12:20,2:40,5:00,7:20,9:40
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) ★ 12:30,2:40,5:00,7:15,9:30
■ **Machete** (R) ★ 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50
■ **Get Low** (PG-13) 12:00,2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20
■ **Nanny McPhee Returns** (PG) 12:00
■ **The American** (R) ★ 12:10,2:30,4:50,7:10,9:30

EVANSTON**CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)**

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(847) 492-0123 ♿

■ **Bran Nue Dae** (PG-13) ★ 12:15,2:30,4:55,7:15,9:35
■ **Machete** (R) ★ ♦ 12:30,3:05,5:40,8:15,10:50
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife** (R) ★ 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) ★ 1:00,3:30,6:05,8:30
■ **Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D** (R) ★ 11:30,2:00,4:30,7:00,9:30
■ **Eat Pray Love** (PG-13) 12:45,3:55,7:05,10:30
■ **Get Low** (PG-13) 11:25,1:55,4:25,7:00,9:35
■ **Going the Distance** (R) ★ 11:25,2:05,4:25,7:10,9:45
■ **Mao's Last Dancer** (PG) 12:55,4:05,7:10,10:10
■ **Mesrine: Killer Instinct** (R) 11:20,5:00,10:35
■ **Mesrine: Public Enemy Number One** (R) ★ 2:00,7:45
■ **Scott Pilgrim vs. the World** (PG-13) 1:50,4:35,7:20,10:05
■ **Takers** (PG-13) 11:35,2:10,4:40,7:25,10:00
■ **The American** (R) 12:00,1:15,2:35,3:50,5:20,6:40,8:00,9:20,10:40
■ **The Expendables** (R) 12:05,2:40,5:10,7:50,10:30
■ **The Last Exorcism** (PG-13) ♦ 11:30,1:40,4:00,6:15,8:30,10:45
■ **The Other Guys** (PG-13) 11:35,2:05,4:45,7:35,10:15
■ **The Switch** (PG-13) 12:15,2:50,5:25,7:55,10:30

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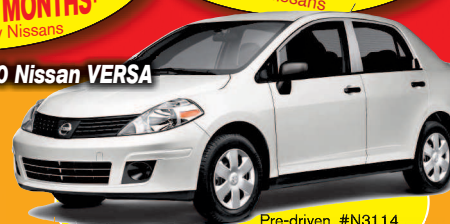
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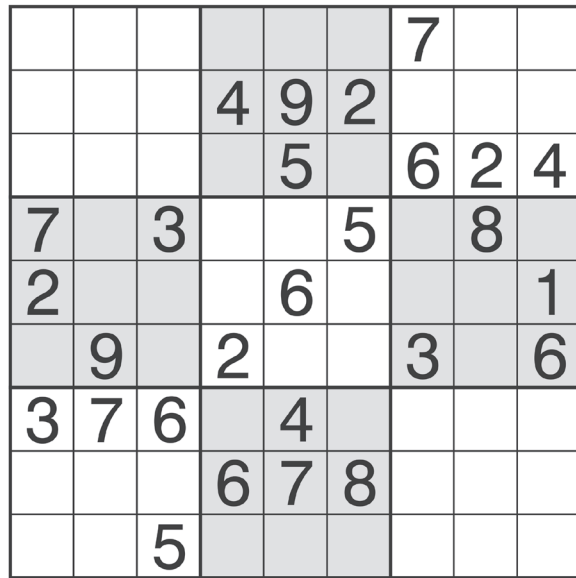


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2	7	1	4	9	5	6	3	8
3	4	8	6	7	2	1	5	9
7	8	4	1	2	6	5	9	3
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9	2	6	5	3	7	4	8	1

TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

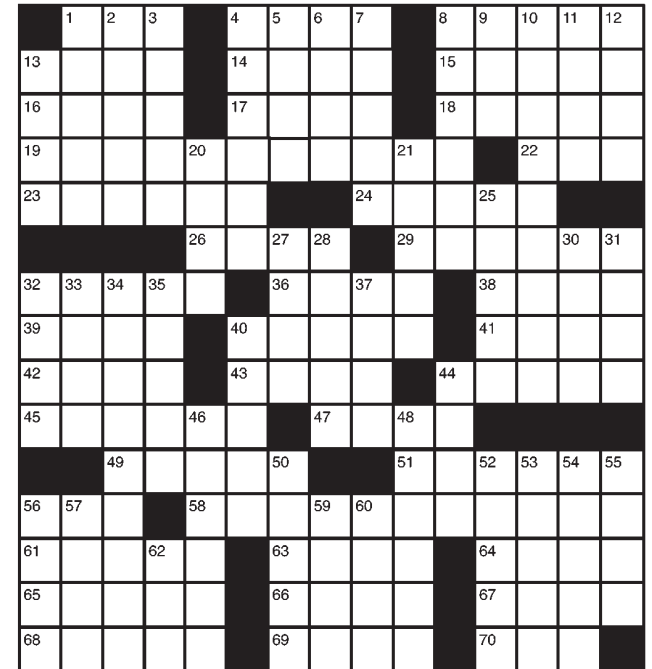
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ACROSS

- Boy
- Split; fissure
- Religious splinter groups
- Casino game
- Beige shade
- Scouting unit
- "Othello" villain
- Hammer part
- Hot under the collar
- Eternal
- Stitch
- Poem divisions
- Hale-Bopp, for one
- Perched upon
- Actress Marlee
- Alas and
- Wildly enthusiastic
- Conceal
- Actress Turner
- Encouraged
- Baseball's Slaughter
- At any time
- do-well; bum
- Consecrate
- Sweat lodges
- Cherished
- Readjust
- Blood pressure, pulse rate, etc.
- Cunning
- Questionable
- White adhesive
- Middy
- Bossa _; Brazilian dance
- Jordan's capital
- Pub order
- Country/pop singer
- Campbell
- Treetop homes
- "For Pete's _!"
- Ancient

DOWN

- Go away
- Hothead's problem
- Entrances
- Meal
- Frosts a cake
- Worry
- Long, loose blouse
- Mark of shame
- Be inaccurate
- Shore
- Carry
- Gush forth
- Chicken _; boneless dish
- Faucet problem
- Wanderer
- Meal
- Merman or Barrymore



- Mean guy
- Summoned with a beeper
- Wedding vows
- Loch _ monster
- Beers
- Molten rock
- Dangerous blood vessel bulges
- Chili con _
- Actor Richard
- Auto racer Al
- Hat's rim
- Fluttering trees
- Retaliate for
- BBQ chef's utensil
- "It takes two to _"
- Ring-shaped island
- Existed
- Read hastily
- Reach across
- Like a poor excuse
- When doubled, a South Pacific island
- _ at; observe
- Tit for _



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'TOP CHEF' SHOWDOWN

By DANA MORAN | REDEYE

BRAVO PHOTO/REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

The finale of "Top Chef D.C." airs at 9 p.m. Wednesday on Bravo, and while it's been one of the show's weaker seasons, we're still curious to see who'll take home that Dial Nutriskin money. (Why is it the sponsor, again?) Since the season premiere, it's looked like New Yorker Angelo Sosa will win the big prize—but you can't discount underdogs Ed Cotton and Kevin Sbraga. Here are the factors that make a Top Chef, and our prediction for who will win.

	 ANGELO SOSA	 ED COTTON	 KEVIN SBRAGA	ADVANTAGE
TALKING A BIG GAME	In Episode 1, he proclaimed, "Everything I do will be amazing."	After securing immunity in Episode 13, Ed's inner jerk began coming out. He explained that he's sometimes mistaken for a d-bag.	Definitely the most humble of the three finalists—but he doesn't have as much reason to brag.	Angelo. He's done three things: make love to food, brag and cook amazingly.
SALVAGING A RUINED DISH	His worst dish, a Beef Wellington pizza on frozen puff pastry, wasn't something he managed to salvage, but it was saved by Alex Reznik's gross dish.	His pea puree went missing in Episode 7, a calamity blamed on the evil Alex. Ed finished in the top three, but Alex got the win.	His couscous ended up on the ground in Episode 5. He scooped it up, doctored it and the judges thought it was "done perfectly."	Ed. The puree incident was the biggest drama all season, and he was classy enough not to rat out Alex.
SAPPIEST FAMILY STORY	His Russian fiancée lives in Croatia; he's trying to figure out how to get her to America.	His girlfriend has been harping on him to take a vacation. Fortunately, he won a trip to Australia in Episode 11.	He has a wife and kids, the youngest of whom was born Aug. 28 and was somewhat ironically named Angelo.	Angelo. Potential mail-order brides are a recipe for hilarity.
WEAKNESS GOING IN	In the preview for Wednesday's finale, Angelo appears to come down with some sort of horrible virus. It's not looking good.	Overconfidence could kill him if Angelo is out sick, but Ed has really pulled it together in the second half of the season.	In Episode 13, which was set in Singapore, Kevin revealed he didn't know how to use a wok. It's surprising he's still in the game.	Ed. As long as he doesn't get too cocky and follows his instincts, Ed has the fewest weaknesses.

AND THE WINNER WILL BE ...



We thought Angelo had this one in the bag, but his visit to death's door in the finale will put victory just far enough out of reach.

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red eye



"I feel good. It was just such a hard, shell-shocking year. Because there was no bad intent on my part, it's just more bad timing. It was purely good intent. So to have been dragged through that for a year, it's just amazing. I mean, I don't know if it's over. I'll probably wear the scar for the rest of my life."

—Kanye West to USA Today on how he's feeling after the VMAs and last year's incident with Taylor Swift. GETTYIMAGESPHOTO

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DIGIT

Number of seasons the TBS sitcom "My Boys" survived. The Chicago-set show aired its season finale Sunday, and network officials announced Tuesday that ratings weren't strong enough for a fifth season, according to multiple reports.



Silence of the Fox

If you believe what Deadline Hollywood is reporting, Jennifer Lopez (left) has signed a sweet deal to judge "American Idol" next spring. Fox won't confirm or deny the rumors, answering "no comment" when RedEye asked about the rumor or when Fox might make an official announcement.

No Pornographers here

A New Pornographers show at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., has been canceled because the school didn't want to be associated with the band's name. "Neither the college nor the band endorses pornography," reads a Calvin College statement released to the Grand Rapids Press.



Strictly business

Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi is done dating "juice-heads," she told Ellen DeGeneres on her talk show Tuesday. "I think I want to move forward," the "Jersey Shore" star said. "I want to move to Brooklyn and find a business Italian guy to take care of me."

Classy reunion

Get ready to "Reminisce." With a nod to the title of the duo's classic track, DJ Pete Rock and C.L. Smooth are scheduled to appear Thursday at The Shrine. It will mark their first onstage rap reunion in five years, according to an event spokeswoman.

» Visit redeyechicago.com/kylesfiles to see a list of the other 10 greatest hip-hop duos of all time.



Baby talk

The "Is she or isn't she?" era is over for Penelope Cruz (above), who's been photographed recently with a noticeably bigger tummy. Reps for the actress and husband Javier Bardem (above) confirm she's preggers. Meanwhile, the mag reports that Killers frontman Brandon Flowers and his wife are expecting their third child. To top off the news cycle, super-private couple Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher were spotted in London pushing a stroller, though her rep told People that she's unlikely to comment on a new baby. GETTYIMAGESFILE PHOTO



Flowers



Cohen



Fisher